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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/844,959	04/27/2001	Mikhail Rodionovich Baklanov	IMEC100.001DV1	1445
20995	7590	07/26/2005	EXAMINER	
KNOBBE MARTENS OLSON & BEAR LLP			TRINH, HOA B	
2040 MAIN STREET			ART UNIT	
FOURTEENTH FLOOR			PAPER NUMBER	
IRVINE, CA 92614			2814	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action SummaryApplication No. 

09/844,959

Applicant(s)

BAKLANOV ET AL.

Examiner

Vikki H. Trinh

Art Unit

2814

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 27 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement

Applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination on May 06, 2005, has been considered.

Claims 11-14 are pending in this present application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Art Unit: 2814

4. Claims 11-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cooney, III et al. (6,066,577) (hereinafter Cooney) in view of Ma (4,187,331).

Cooney discloses an IC comprising an interconnect structure 20 (fig. 2F), the interconnect structure 20 comprising a dielectric layer 28 (barrier layer, fig. 2C and col. 4, lines 60-67) free of fluorine and a mask layer 22 with fluorine dopant (fluorine layer, col. 5, lines 7-10, and fig. 2C).

However, Cooney does not explicitly teach that the mask layer 22 is a hard mask layer comprising a patterned organic polymer film, wherein a portion of the patterned organic polymer film is fluorinated.

Ma discloses an analogous integrated circuit having a hard mask layer (col. 2, lines 2-3) comprising a patterned organic polymer film (col. 1, line 67, col. 4, lines 36-43) and a portion of the patterned organic polymer film is fluorinated (col. 2, lines 1-5).

Therefore, as to claim 11, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the invention of Cooney with a hard mask having a patterned organic polymer film with a fluorinated portion, as taught by Ma, so as to protect the underlying layer.

As to claim 12, Ma discloses that the patterned organic film (col. 1, line 67, col. 4, lines 36-43) is a patterned low-K organic polymer film for depositing over the underlying layer. Note that the term "low-K" is a relative term.

As to claim 13, Cooney discloses an IC (fig. 2C) having a dielectric layer 28 and a mask layer 22, wherein the layer 28 and the layer 22 may be used of the same material, e.g. silicon dioxide, (col. 4, lines 60-67, col. 5, lines 7-10). Further, layer 28 is free of fluorine and layer 22

Art Unit: 2814

has fluorine dopant (fig. 2C). However, Cooney does not teach neither layer 28 nor layer 22 is made of organic polymer material. Ma teaches an analogous IC having a patterned organic polymer film with fluorine dopant (col. 2, lines 1-4) so as to provide a hardened surface covering of the underlying layer. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the material of layer 28 and layer 22 of Cooney with the patterned organic polymer material, as taught by Ma, so as to provide a fluorinated portion and a non-fluorinated portion of the same organic polymer material.

According to claim 13, claim 14 is met, because the fluorinated portion has a K-value being less than the K-value of the non-fluorinated portion since the fluorinated portion has a lower permittivity value compared to the non-fluorinated portion.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-14 filed on April 07, 2005, have been considered, but they are moot in view of the new rejection above.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Vikki Trinh whose telephone number is (571) 272-1719. The Examiner can normally be reached from Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Wael Fahmy, can be reached at (571) 272-1705. The office fax number is 703-872-9306.

Any request for information regarding to the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Also, status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public Pair. In addition, status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

Art Unit: 2814

more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. If you have questions pertaining to the Private PAIR system, please contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).

Lastly, paper copies of cited U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications will cease to be mailed to applicants with Office actions as of June 2004. Paper copies of foreign patents and non-patent literature will continue to be included with office actions. These cited U.S. patents and patent application publications are available for download via the Office's PAIR. As an alternate source, all U.S. patents and patent application publications are available on the USPTO web site (www.uspto.gov), from the Office of Public Records and from commercial sources. Applicants are referred to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at <http://www.uspto.gov/ebc/index.html> or 1-866-217-9197 for information on this policy. Requests to restart a period for response due to a missing U.S. patent or patent application publications will not be granted.

Vikki Trinh, 
Patent Examiner
AU 2814